

quarry. A block of 14 tons is soon cut to the size and shape required, by the power of "the plug and feather." When a hole has been bored of the required depth, two wedges are introduced into the hole, with the thick end down, and by driving the one in the centre, the combined power of three wedges is thus obtained, and made to bear upon every hole, and thus split the stone.

LIVERPOOL ACADEMY'S EXHIBITION.—The following is a list of sales during the ten days in which the Exhibition has been open:—"A Group on the Mountains," T. S. Cooper, A.R.A.; "Evening," T. Creswick, A.R.A.; "Eather's Emotion," H. O'Neill; "Morning," J. Sant; "Cottage Scene," T. Whitcott; "Fall of the Staubbach," H. C. Salous; "View near Rivington," R. Tonge; "The Morning Ride," W. Huggins; "Gravel-pit in Burnham Beeches," H. C. Pidgeon; "A Breton Family," E. A. Goodall; "Ruins of Blackfriars' Monastery, Hereford," W. Callow; "A Country Lane," J. Clayton Bentley; "Kitchen at Meryfield, Sussex," C. Landseer, R.A.; "Clynochie Bridge," J. Peol; "Rivington Pike," R. Tonge; "Scene on the Avon," W. E. Deighton; "Distant View of Dunster Castle," Copley Fielding; "Queen Elizabeth as the Fairie Queen," Frank Howard; "Kreuznach on the Nahe," G. Stanfield; "Cliffs near Boulogne," G. Stanfield; "Edinburgh, from Inchkeith," C. Bentley; "Fish Girl," W. Davis; "Nook in a Farm-yard," W. Huggins; "Study from Nature," Thos. Westcott; "Castle of Nassau," T. M. Richardson; "The Last Man," John Martin; "Flowers," Miss Annie Mutrie; "A Fresh Breeze off the Isle of Wight," A. Vickers; "Landscape, near Newport," A. Vickers; "A Bright Summer's Day," H. J. Hoddington; "St. Nicholas Church, &c., Liverpool," J. H. Williams; "Gleaners," J. A. Puller; "Group, in marble, of Romulus and Remus," Auguste Mampru. The total sales already amount to upwards of 1,400*l*.

BLASTING OF SEAFORD CLIFF.—This great undertaking has been successfully accomplished. The galleries and chambers filled with gunpowder, as already described, were fired by the voltaic battery placed behind the cliff, and in presence of a vast number of spectators, an immense mass of cliff, at least 100 feet in height, twice as broad, and extending out to a point about 300 feet, bent forwards towards the sea, cracked in all directions, crumbled into pieces, and fell upon the beach in front of it, forming a bank down which large portions of the falling mass glided slowly into the sea for several yards, like a stream of lava flowing into the water. As in previous instances, there was no very loud report, though a rumbling noise was heard, and a tremulous vibration was felt nearly three miles off. A chimney fell at the village, three-quarters of a mile off. It was believed that further cliff-falls would follow. The mass separated was larger than expected, and is thought to comprise at least 300,000 tons. The effect of the first discharge was so great, and the ground was so loosened near the telegraph-house that the upper charges were not fired. The beach is about 200 feet wide at low water, as was the case at the time of the explosion, and that space was more than covered. The explosion at Dover was performed with a smaller quantity of gunpowder, but the work done was greater there, as there was a natural cleft behind. It is to be presumed that some future means of fixing the sea-wall thus formed, so as to prevent its being washed away in course of years, will be taken, otherwise throwing the cliff into the sea might only tend to accelerate the mischief by bringing the material prematurely within the destructive influence of the waves.

THE SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY held their annual meeting at Wells on Tuesday in last week, the Bishop of Bath and Wells in the chair. His lordship spoke especially of the pursuit of natural history as a study teaching humility. "Whether (said his lordship) we view the working of the Almighty's hand in the minutest of the creeping things under our feet, in the lowest hyssop of the wall, in the cedar forest, or in the mountains in which they grow, or in the stupendous ruins of early creation now passed away; or whether we view the handicraft of men in the massive columns, the lofty arches, the delicate tracery, the exquisite sculpture, of all which

this clay and neighbourhood furnish such rich examples; there is but one, and the same lesson of humility to be learned." The report stated that the society had been in existence eighteen months, and consisted of more than 300 members. Papers were read by Mr. Baker, "on the marl pits of Somerset," by Mr. J. H. Markland, on the "sculpture of the west end of Wells Cathedral," and by the Rev. Mr. Clark, "on Wells Cathedral." Next day (Wednesday), the members proceeded to Glastonbury, to view the ruins of the abbey, and hear an illustrative paper by the Rev. Mr. Ward; after which they ascended the Tor. The next anniversary will be held at Bath.

WIDENING CHANCERY-LANE.—Two corner houses are about to be pulled down at the Holborn end of this lane, and the local authorities have offered Mr. Steel 750*l*, for 7 feet of frontage, to widen the inconvenient thoroughfare at this point. The offer has been refused, but 4 feet proposed for the sum named. The matter is still under negotiation. Lord Radnor has most liberally given up to the public the nook or bend projecting between the houses alluded to. The Woods and Forests, it appears, have power to interfere, if necessary, for the public behoof in this matter.

ELECTRO-TELEGRAPHIC.—Negotiations, it is rumoured, are on foot with Government for the establishment of a submarine telegraph over the 60 miles of sea from Holyhead to Kingstown, and onwards to either Cork or Galway, so to be connected by steam-ship with the nearest telegraph station on the other side of the Atlantic.—The Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois Telegraph Company has 1,000 miles in working order.—Within the last four months, no less than 1,000 miles of telegraph have been opened in Germany, making the total mileage about 2,000 miles, of which about one-quarter has the wires laid underground. Another 1,000 miles will be ready by next year. The telegraph now works from Cracow to Trieste, 700 miles. On 1st October the new telegraph union between Austria, Prussia, Saxony, and Bavaria comes into operation, under a uniform tariff, with one-half of the former charges.

AERONAUTIC RAILWAY BETWEEN FRANCE AND ENGLAND.—A Frenchman, M. F. Lemaître, determined to be mastered by no mere telegraphing English engineer, has been astonishing the Academy of Sciences with an elaborated scheme of a true suspension-bridge for as true an atmospheric railway between Calais and Dover, the chains, peculiar in construction, to be suspended above from a formidable regiment of elliptical balloons, floating permanently in the air, and below to be attached to heavily-laden barges sunk under water, while abutments on the opposite shores will complete the suspension, so as to support a fairy railway bridge, under which, we presume, the Channel shipping traffic may have its usual free course to and fro. As to cost, M. Lemaître calculates that 300,000*fr*. per 100 yards, or 84,000*l*. in all, will suffice. Original, as it is, the scheme may be, perhaps, he is now aware, in the suggestion of a railway communication across the Channel, an Englishman is still a-head of him in respect to priority at least, a submarine railway tube or tunnel of wrought-iron having been projected by a Liverpool correspondent of our own, Mr. De la Haye (French name, though, after all), even prior not only to the realisation of the Britannia and Conway tubes, but to the time when they themselves were first such a subject of ridicule as doubtless M. Lemaître's idea is destined in its turn to be.

THE IRISH AMELIORATION SOCIETY.—The inauguration of the new society, established by royal charter, for the employment of the Irish peasantry in the manufacture of peat charcoal as a substitute for wood charcoal in all its purposes, but particularly for deodorisation of manure, &c., took place lately at one of the society's stations, in a wild and remote part of the bog of Allen. The opening of the station was witnessed by a number of distinguished persons, among whom was the Chief Secretary of the Government for Ireland, the Archbishop, Mayor, and Sheriff, of Dublin, the Earl of Clancarty, &c. This model station is at Derrymullen, county Kildare; and consists of three wooden houses, with machinery for grinding charcoal, &c. Mr.

Jasper Rogers conducted the party through the station, and afterwards gave a description of the works, in which he stated that the profits were to be expended in establishing practical instructors at the stations, 300 of which were contemplated by the charter. "The people," he said, "were but too happy to be employed by the society, and often when he gave a man liberty to work, that man would burst out crying with pleasure." They required no task-master, though there were overseers. The society could sell their charcoal at 30*s*. a-ton, but the market price was still from 4*l*. up to 10*l*. in England. The Metropolitan Sewers Commission had given orders to prepare charcoal for a certain number of sewers, and he expected that London alone would ultimately take 2,000,000 tons yearly.

SURVEY OF BIRMINGHAM.—At a recent meeting of the board, the three candidates reserved for final examination, Messrs. Leversedge and Corfield, of Taunton, whose tender was 700*l*, and who calculated twelve months as the time they would take; Mr. D. Paine, of London, 945*l*, and in ten months; and Mr. J. Newey, 1,445*l*, in twenty-one months; were called in, and the chairman and several other members put various questions, relative to the mode of assessment, and other matters relating to the work. Mr. Paine asked that the time should in his case be extended to twelve months, and Mr. Newey requested that he should be permitted to tender at eighteen months instead of twenty-one, which the board, in both cases, seemed inclined to grant. After a short discussion as to the proper mode of procedure, it was at length determined that one gentleman should be recommended for appointment, and on going to the vote, Mr. Paine was selected.

COMPETITION PLANS FOR BRIDGE ON THE RHINE AT COLOGNE.—It appears, from an official document published by Mr. Van der Heide, the Minister of Trade and Public Works, that the committee appointed to examine the merits of the various plans for a bridge over the Rhine, between the cities of Cologne and Deuts, have awarded the first prize of 250 frederics d'or to Mr. John W. Schwedler, architect, of Berlin, and the second prize of 125 frederics d'or to Captain W. Mooroom, of London.

THE "THAMES SEWAGE SALVAGE COMPANY."—Under this title a new company has been started, notwithstanding previous failures of similar schemes. It proposes to conduct the entire mass of sewage matter, by means of an iron tubular channel, to such a distance from London and its suburbs, that the flow of the tide cannot return it to the bed of the river. Its current will be concentrated at a certain point already determined on, situate below Gravesend, where it will be received into covered repositories, to undergo both a chemical and mechanical process, by which it will be condensed, and rendered a valuable fertilising agent. It is also a portion of the plans of this company, by means of a peculiarly constructed wheel, which they have secured, and a line of pipes concurrent with the sewage tubes, to supply the cities of London and Westminster with a constant stream of pure sea water, for the use of hospitals, public institutions, &c. The company propose to raise a capital of 300,000*l*, with power to increase it to 500,000*l*. It is estimated that the sale of the manufactured manure, at a maximum price of 10*s*. per ton, will leave a large annual profit to the shareholders. We won't say.

TENDERS

For house in Cannon-street, City, for Messrs. Board.

Mr. Jas. T. Knowles, architect.	
Typo	23,378
Masonry	8,630
Landry	3,480
Rider	5,424
Ortmadell	3,363
Wilson	3,378
Henry Burton	3,068
Lawrence and Sons	2,837

For gas-fittings, for Trinity Chapel, High Wycombe, now erecting. Mr. Charles G. Heath, architect.

	Fittings.	Fitting.	Total.
Lacey, High Wycombe	436 10 0	231 0 0	2106 10 0
Shepherd, ditto	42 2 0	34 0 0	66 2 0
Hulse, ditto	27 0 0	23 10 0	50 10 0
Fulton, London	30 10 0	10 10 0	40 10 0